OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB RILEY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2004

Governor Riley Announces Additional Counties Added to Federal Disaster Declaration

MONTGOMERY - Governor Bob Riley today announced President Bush has approved his request to add more Alabama counties to the federal disaster declaration due to damage caused by Hurricane Ivan.

"With the approval of our request, now even more Alabamians will be able to get the help they need to recover," Governor Riley said. "I greatly appreciate President Bush's response and we will continue to do all we can to make sure all available help is delivered as quickly as possible."

The counties added to the federal disaster declaration for individual assistance are: Barbour, Blount, Bullock, Calhoun, Clay, Cullman, Dale, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lawrence, Lee, Macon, Marshall, Marion, Pike, St. Clair, Tallapoosa, Walker and Winston.

The counties added to the federal disaster declaration for individual assistance and debris removal are: Autauga, Bibb, Chilton, Choctaw, Coosa, Dallas, Elmore, Greene, Hale, Jefferson, Lowndes, Marengo, Montgomery, Perry, Pickens, Shelby, Sumter, Talladega, Tuscaloosa and Wilcox.

Individual storm victims in these counties are now eligible to apply for federal assistance to help with temporary housing, rental assistance, individual housing program grants and other types of assistance.

On September 16, President Bush approved -- at Governor Riley's request -- infrastructure assistance to local governments and individual assistance to storm victims in Baldwin, Mobile, Washington, Escambia, Clarke, Monroe, Conecuh, Butler, Crenshaw, Covington, Coffee and Geneva Counties.

The Presidential disaster declaration of September 16 also approved infrastructure assistance to local governments in Choctaw, Marengo, Wilcox, Lowndes, Montgomery, Sumter, Greene, Hale, Perry, Dallas, Autauga, Elmore, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Chilton, Coosa, Jefferson, Shelby and Talladega Counties.

To apply for assistance, individuals must call the FEMA toll free tele-registration line at 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585 for the speech and hearing impaired. The lines are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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For more information, contact the Governor's Press Office at (334) 242-7150.